GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Kaziranga National Park
Dev Km. Sushmita

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of armed forces deployed in Kaziranga National Park for the protection of wildlife against poachers;
(b) the number of suspected poachers who have been shot during the last three years;
(c) the details of the orders or immunity given to the guards who shot suspected poachers; and
(d) the details of the alternative methods being explored by the Government to reduce instances of poaching?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) The number of armed forces deployed in Kaziranga National Park for the protection of wildlife, as reported by State, is as under:-

Armed Force Number
Forest staff 374
Assam Forest Protection Force 387
Home Guard 114
Total 875

(b) The number of suspected poachers shot during the last three years, as reported by State, is as under:-

Year No. of Poachers
2014 22
2015 23
2016 05
2017 (as on 26.7.2017) 01

(c) All forest officers including Game Watchers, Forest Guards, Foresters, Forest Rangers, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Deputy Conservators of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers, Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Members and Supervisory Officers of Assam Forest Protection Force in the State of Assam and who are charged with maintenance of public order relating to forest and wildlife protection, conservation and management have been conferred immunity as per provisions, as envisaged in sub-section (2) of Section 197 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, to the extent that wherever firing is resorted to by such personnel, each such incident shall be enquired into by an Executive Magistrate of the locality, and any proceeding including institution of a criminal case of any nature or effecting an arrest can be initiated by the Police, only if, it is held, as a result of the Magisterial Enquiry that use of firearms has been unnecessary, unwarranted and excessive and such report has been examined and accepted by the Government.

(d) Use of modern surveillance techniques like electronic eye and drones, active involvement of local communities for intelligence gathering, co-ordination with other enforcement agencies viz. Police Department and intensive patrolling in the park as well as the areas surrounding the park, inter alia, are some of other measures taken to address poaching.

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